

MICHIGAN DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES October 15, 2015

***** Approved *****

Members Present:

Dr. Cris Sullivan, Chair
Yvonne Brantley
James Fink
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines

Members Absent:

Jeffrie Cape
Hon. Jeffrey Sauter
Jacqueline Schafer

Staff Present:

Debi Cain, Executive Director
Michael Bobbitt, Board Secretary
Celestine Colton
Carol Hackett Garagiola
Julie Giddings
Mary Lovik
Lore Rogers
Joyce Wright

Guests:

Mary Keefe - Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
Sarah Rennie Prout - Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence
Mary Pollock - American Association of University Women

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair C. Sullivan convened the October 15, 2015 Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board meeting at the Grand Tower Building, Dempsey Room, Lansing, Michigan at 2:15 p.m. Introductions were made and a welcome extended to guests.

BOARD CONSENT

Review of agenda and approval of September 17, 2015 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Moved by L. Hines to approve the October 15, 2015 agenda and to approve the September 17, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Y. Brantley. Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

C. Sullivan welcomed everyone and indicated she has no report this month.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WORK TO DATE

D. Cain said that currently many of the Board staff members are in the Upper Peninsula conducting site visits and training.

D. Cain thanked L. Hines for her help with the 36th District Court pilot project. The Board will be funding the 36th District Court to pilot a dedicated domestic violence docket for intimate partner violence related misdemeanors and preliminary exams for domestic violence related felonies. At the request of the 36th District Court, the project will fund a full-time probation officer, a DV court coordinator position, and a full-time prosecutor. The Board will also fund an additional full-time advocate at First Step to assist survivors in the 36th District Court. D. Cain is hopeful that this can be a key element in reducing the number of intimate partner homicides in Detroit. D. Cain said she is excited that the STOP dollars required to be allocated to courts can be put to good use by designating them to this community.

D. Cain spoke about three Upper Peninsula programs she visited recently and the issues they are facing. D. Cain said the Upper Peninsula programs she visited are doing amazing things with very little resources and cited an example of a program where a woman died and the program handled the tragedy in a very professional and caring manner. D. Cain noted that the agency director jobs in the Upper Peninsula are incredibly difficult, and that these programs are doing the best they can to provide adequate care for survivors with very limited community resources. D. Cain said it is important to find more training opportunities for staff in the Upper Peninsula programs.

M. Keefe said that the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence has a program which dedicates state and federal dollars to use for mentoring new agency directors, many of whom are in the Upper Peninsula. M. Keefe said there are many opportunities for dialogue with agency directors, but more training is needed. S. Rennie Prout said that in the coming year many programs will be receiving administrative training on grant compliance, grant writing, legal issues and budgeting. D. Cain said new agency directors are required to learn a lot in a short period of time.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

Mary Lovik reported on a proposal by MDSVPTB staff to extend the provisions of MCL768.27a to cases involving listed offenses against adult victims.

MOTION: Moved by J. Fink to support the staff proposal in concept, and to authorize staff to work with other stakeholders to further develop it. Motion seconded by L. Hines. Motion carried.

M. Lovik reported on a proposal by MDSVPTB and MDHHS staff to update and clarify the provisions of MCL 18.355a, which governs the payment of sexual assault medical forensic examinations.

MOTION: Moved by Y. Brantley to support the staff proposal in concept and to authorize staff to work with other stakeholders to further develop it. Motion seconded by L. Hines. Motion carried.

M. Lovik reported on HB 4903 and SB 512, which would amend the Revised School Code to provide that schools choosing to teach sex education must include age-appropriate material and instruction about “affirmative consent” to sexual activity.

MOTION: Moved by J. Fink to support the intent to prevent sexual assault on college and university campuses, and the deletion of current law provisions requiring that students be taught to say “no” to sexual advances, and further, to express the following misgivings about HB 4903 and SB 512:

- **No evidence exists to support the efficacy of education about “affirmative consent” in preventing sexual assault on college campuses.**
- **The bills’ formulation of “affirmative consent” principles does not reflect the realities of sexual encounters.**
- **Education about a more realistic concept of “affirmative consent” would be better suited for college and university-age students.**
- **While education about “affirmative consent” is appropriate in instruction about healthy sexuality, education aimed to prevent sexual assault should contain information about the nature and dynamics of sexual assault, which is lacking in the bill. Individuals who learn about “affirmative consent without an accompanying understanding of the nature and dynamics of sexual assault are likely to believe that sexual assault is largely a matter of poor communication.**
- **Unrealistic expectations about the efficacy of “affirmative consent” education may make communities complacent about their responses to sexual assault, so that they will not devote resources to other responses that may be more effective to prevent it.**

Motion seconded by L Hines. Motion carried.

The Board discussed implications of law enforcement body-worn cameras for survivor safety and privacy. Members requested staff to meet with Y. Brantley, J. Fink, L. Hines, and other state partners to identify ongoing efforts to address the use of body-worn cameras, and to further identify impacts of this equipment on survivor privacy and safety.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

M. Keefe gave an update on the transition plan at Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence. M. Keefe said that S. Rennie Prout will be the Interim Executive Director, but a decision has not been made about the new Senior Policy Attorney.

M. Pollock from the Michigan Association of University Women reported on the views of her organization that were expressed at a Sept. 22, 2015 hearing on HB4847 and HB4030. These bills would impose criminal penalties on individuals who coerce a woman to have an abortion.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting ended at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt